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REMARKS

This amendment is submitted for consideration before examination on the merits.

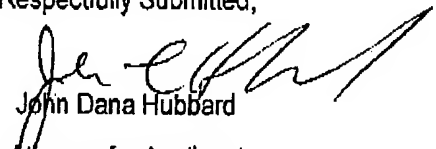
Claims 1-35 have been cancelled from this application.

New claims 33-68 have been added to replace the current claims and find full support in the specification and claims as originally filed.

A separate sheet containing the amended and new claims is also attached for the examiner's use as "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

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Respectfully Submitted,


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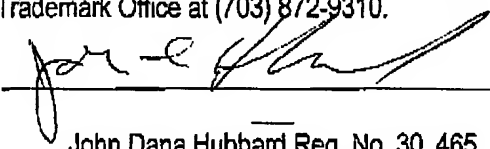
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☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage a first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

John Dana Hubbard Reg. No. 30, 465
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Jean Lemmonier
10/089,533
March 27, 2002
Device for Microbiological Examination of a Sample
of Liquid Under Pressure and Method of
Draining this Device

Version Marked to Show Changes Made

Claims 1-35 have been cancelled.

New claims 36-68 have been added as follows:

36.(New) A device for microbiological examination of a sample of liquid under pressure, having an intake body, a filtering membrane and a drainage body, said intake body having a reservoir, in one wall of which a liquid input aperture is made, said membrane closing said reservoir, said drainage body having means of supporting said membrane on the opposite side from said reservoir and a liquid output aperture, said intake body and said drainage body having integrally moulded mutual locking means, comprising in that said membrane is gripped annularly at the periphery between a first member forming part of said intake body and a second member forming part of said drainage body with one out of said first member and said second member having an elastomer seal by means of which it comes into contact with said membrane, and in that said locking means are adapted to allow the opening of said device by requiring only a separation movement between said first member and said second member, said locking means having means of axial latching between the intake body and the drainage body, one out of the latter having at least one axially oriented latching tab while the other has means of receiving said latching tab, which extends projecting from the edge of a skirt forming part of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it.

37). (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the membrane is held exclusively on account of it being gripped annularly at the periphery between said first member and said second member.

38.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the seal is moulded on to that one out of said first member and said second member which includes it.

39.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the first member has said elastomer seal.

40.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the first member has said elastomer seal and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal.

41.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the first member which has said elastomer seal and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal and a groove is made at the end of a rigid part of said lateral wall while said seal has a T-shaped profile whose longitudinal branch forms a rib inserted into said groove and whose transverse branch forms a cushion which is in contact with the membrane.

42. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the first member which has said elastomer seal and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal and a groove is made at the end of a rigid part of said lateral wall while said seal has a T-shaped profile whose longitudinal branch forms a rib inserted into said groove and whose transverse branch forms a cushion which is in contact with the membrane and there is a bevel between the rib and the cushion on the external side, while, on the internal side, the rib and the cushion are connected by a straight surface.

43.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the first member which has said elastomer seal and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal and a groove is made at the end of a rigid part of said lateral wall while said seal has a T-shaped profile whose longitudinal branch forms a rib inserted into said groove and whose transverse branch forms a cushion which is in contact with the membrane and said cushion has two annular lips.

44.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said latching tab is connected to the remainder of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it, by a breakable zone.

45.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said latching tab is connected to the remainder of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it, by a breakable zone and said breakable zone is situated in the region of a dihedral in one of the surfaces of said latching tab.

46.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said latching tab is connected to the remainder of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it, by a

breakable zone and said breakable zone is situated in the region of a dihedral in one of the surfaces of said latching tab and said surface having a dihedral is situated on the internal side of the latching tab.

47.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening.

48.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening and said means for preventing the withdrawal of the latching tab are provided on the latter and on said wall.

49.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening and said means for preventing the withdrawal of the latching tab are provided on the latter and on said wall and said means for preventing the withdrawal of the latching tab have, on said wall, a tooth oriented axially and bordering said opening and having, on said latching tab, a groove adapted to accommodate said tooth.

50.(New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening and said transversely oriented wall is connected to a lateral wall extending on the opposite side from that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has the latching tab, with the dimension in the axial direction of said lateral wall being greater than the dimension in the axial direction of the latching tab.

51. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising a notch is made in said lateral wall at the level of said opening, to make it possible to press on said latching tab.

52. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the intake body which has the latching tab, and in that it is the drainage body which has the means of receiving said latching tab.

53. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising one out of said intake body and said drainage body has a number of said latching tabs.

54. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising one out of said intake body and said drainage body has four latching tabs.

55. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said locking means comprise exclusively said axial latching means.

56. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal.

57. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said support means have a concave surface facing said membrane.

58. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising the ratio of the difference between the length of the arc corresponding to the profile, in a diametral plane, of said surface of said support means and between the length of the chord of this arc, over the latter length, corresponds to the coefficient of expansion of said membrane between the dry state and the wet state.

59. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said support means are formed by a porous pad.

60. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having,

around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said support means are formed by a porous pad and said drainage body has drainage channels under said porous pad, said drainage channels opening into said output aperture.

61. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and the external diameter of said circular table corresponds substantially to the internal diameter of a skirt included in said intake body, said skirt encircling said circular table.

62. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and the external diameter of said circular table corresponds substantially to the internal diameter of a skirt included in said intake body, said skirt encircling said circular table and areas of extra thickness for wedging are provided between said circular table and said skirt.

63. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said drainage body has a skirt disposed in a step with respect to said circular table.

64. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said drainage body has a skirt disposed in a step with respect to said circular table and said skirt has means of latching with said intake body.

65. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having,

around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said drainage body has a skirt disposed in a step with respect to said circular table and said skirt of the drainage body has at least one notch adapted to allow the placing of a drainage syringe.

66. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said output aperture of the drainage body is in the continuation of the internal passage of a coaxially disposed output pipe.

67. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising said output aperture of the drainage body is in the continuation of the internal passage of a coaxially disposed output pipe and said drainage body has, around said output pipe, an annular rib tapering towards its end.

68. (New) A method for draining a device according to Claim 36 comprising said output aperture of the drainage body is in the continuation of the internal passage of a coaxially disposed output pipe and said drainage body has, around said output pipe, an annular rib tapering towards its end and it is placed on a vacuum flask with said output pipe engaged in the central hole of the stopper of said flask and said annular rib resting on this stopper.